

CLAIMS:

1. A method for evaluating a composite developmental plan, the composite plan being indicative of a simultaneous arrangement of a first delivery system and a second delivery system in a building, the first and second delivery systems being
5 composed of elements, the method comprising steps of:
- (a) providing a standard, the standard specifying a first distance; and
 - (b) for each pair of a first element present in the first system and a second element present in the second system, determining whether the distance between first and second elements in the composite plan, is greater than the
10 first distance.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the composite plan is provided by superimposing a developmental plan for the first system and a developmental plan of a second system.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the standard further specifies a second
15 distance, the second distance being greater than the first distance, and the method further comprises a step of determining for each pair of a first element present in the first system and a second element present in the second system, whether the distance between first and second elements is between the first and second distance.
- 20 4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising a step, for one or more pairs of a first element present in the first system and a second element in the second system for which the distance between the first and second elements is less than the first distance, of rectifying the composite plan to produce a rectified composite plan in which the distance between first and second elements in the composite plan is
25 greater than the first distance.
5. The method of Claim 3, further comprising a step, for one or more pairs of a first element present in the first system and a second element in the second system for which the distance between the first and second element is less than the second distance, of rectifying the composite plan to produce a rectified composite plan, in

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which the distance between first and second elements in the composite plan is greater than the second distance.

6. A method for arranging n delivery systems in a building, the method comprising the steps of:

- 5 (a) providing a developmental plan for each of the n systems ;
- (b) arranging the systems in a hierarchy, $S_1, \dots, S_k, \dots, S_n$, where S_k is the k -th system in the hierarchy;
- (c) for $k = 2, \dots, n$
 - (ca) for $i=1, \dots, k-1$;
 - 10 (caa) providing a composite developmental plan of system S_k and system S_i ,
 - (cab) evaluating the composite plan by the method of the invention.

7. The method of Claim 6 further comprising a step (cac) for one or more values of k for which a first element in the system S_k and a second element in the
15 system S_i , for which the distance between the first and second elements is less than the first distance, of rectifying the composite plan to produce a rectified composite plan in which the distance between the first and second elements in the composite plan is greater than the first distance.

8. A method for arranging n delivery systems in a building, the method comprising
20 the steps of:

- (a) providing a developmental plan for each of the n systems ;
- (b) arranging the systems in a hierarchy, $S_1, \dots, S_k, \dots, S_n$, where S_k is the k -th system in the hierarchy;
- (c) for $k = 2, \dots, n$
 - 25 (ca) for $i=1, \dots, k-1$;
 - (caa) providing a composite developmental plan of system S_k and system S_i ,
 - (cab) evaluating the composite plan by the method of the invention.

9. The method of Claim 8 further comprising a step (cac) for one or more values
30 of k for which a first element in the system S_k and a second element in the system

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S_i , for which the distance between the first and second elements is less than the second distance, of rectifying the composite plan to produce a rectified composite plan in which the distance between the first and second elements in the composite plan is greater than the second distance.

5 10. A system for evaluating a composite developmental plan, the composite plan being indicative of a simultaneous arrangement of a first delivery system and a second delivery system in a building, the first and second delivery systems being composed of elements, the system comprising a processor configured to determine, for each pair of a first element present in the first system and a second element
10 present in the second system, whether the distance between the first and second elements in the composite plan is greater than a first predetermined distance.

11. The system according to Claim 10 wherein the processor is further configured to generate a composite plan from two developmental plans.

12. The system according to Claim 10 wherein the processor is further
15 configured to determine, for each pair of a first element present in the first system and a second element present in the second system, whether the distance between the first and second elements is between the first predetermined distance and less than a second predetermined distance.

13. The system according to Claim 10, wherein the processor is further
20 configured, for one or more pairs of a first element present in the first system and a second element present in the second system for which the distance in the composite plan between the first and second element is less than the first predetermined distance, to rectify the composite plan so as to produce a rectified composite plan in which the distance between the first and second elements in the
25 composite plan is greater than the first distance.

14. The system according to Claim 12 wherein the processor is further configured, for one or more pairs of a first element present in the first system and a second element present in the second system for which the distance in the composite plan between the first and second element is less than the second
30 predetermined distance, to rectify the composite plan so as to produce a rectified

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composite plan in which the distance between the first and second elements in the rectified composite plan is greater than the second distance.

15 **15.** A system for arranging a delivery system in a building, each system having a developmental plan, the systems being arranged in a hierarchy $S_1 \dots S_k \dots S_n$, where S_k is the k-th system in the hierarchy, the system comprising a processor configured to:

for $k=2, \dots, n$

for $i=1, \dots, k-1$

- 10 (a) producing a composite plan of the developmental plans of S_i and S_k ;
and
(b) for each pair of a first element present in the i-th system and a second element present in the k-th system, determining whether the distance between the first and second elements in the composite plan is below a first predetermined distance A_{i-k} .

15 **16.** A system for arranging a delivery system in a building, each system having a developmental plan, the systems being arranged in a hierarchy $S_1 \dots S_k \dots S_n$, where S_k is the k-th system in the hierarchy, the system comprising a processor configured to:

for $k=2, \dots, n$

20 for $i=1, \dots, k-1$

- (a) producing a composite plan of the developmental plans of S_i and S_k ;
and
(b) for each pair of a first element present in the i-th system and a second element present in the k-th system, determining whether the distance between the first and second elements in the composite plan is below
25 a second predetermined distance A_{i-k} .

17. The system according to Claim 10 further comprising a memory for storing data indicative of one or more developmental plans.

30 **18.** The system according to Claim 15, further comprising a memory for storing data indicative of one or more developmental plans.

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19. The system according to Claim 16, further comprising a memory for storing data indicative of one or more developmental plans.
20. The method according to Claim 10 further comprising an input device for inputting data indicative of one or more developmental plans into the memory.
- 5 21. The method according to Claim 15 further comprising an input device for inputting data indicative of one or more developmental plans into the memory.
22. The method according to Claim 16 further comprising an input device for inputting data indicative of one or more developmental plans into the memory.
23. The method according to Claim 10 further comprising a memory for storing
10 data indicative of one or more composite developmental plans.
24. The method according to Claim 15 further comprising a memory for storing data indicative of one or more composite developmental plans.
25. The method according to Claim 16 further comprising a memory for storing data indicative of one or more composite developmental plans.
- 15 26. The system according to Claim 10 further comprising a display device for displaying a developmental plan or a composite developmental plan.
27. The system according to Claim 15 further comprising a display device for displaying a developmental plan or a composite developmental plan.
28. The system according to Claim 16 further comprising a display device for
20 displaying a developmental plan or a composite developmental plan.
29. The system according to Claim 27 wherein the display device is a CRT.
30. The system according to Claim 27 wherein the processor is further configured to indicate in a displayed composite developmental plan elements in the plan that do not comply with a standard.
- 25 31. The method according to Claim 27 further comprising an input device for amending a displayed composite developmental plan.
32. The method according to Claim 31 wherein the input device is a computer mouse and a displayed composite developmental plan is amended using the mouse to drag one or more elements in the displayed plan to a new location in the plan.

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5 comprising steps of:

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15 comprising:

relationships among the delivery systems in the building;

20 whether the composite plan complies with one or more building standards.